



# Blacklaw Primary Newsletter December 2016

[www.blacklaw-primary-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.blacklaw-primary-lanark.sch.uk) Tel 01355 232064



Dear Parents/Carers

## Preparations for Christmas



Christmas is coming at Blacklaw. Our tree is up and many exciting events are planned. Please refer to our very busy diary attached.

During the last two weeks of term we will be holding our Christmas Parties, Pantomime and Christmas Service. Letters giving further details will be issued separately. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate this Christmas Season.

## Videoing Christmas Events

During the course of our Christmas festivities pupils will participate in events e.g. nativity service to which we invite family and friends to enjoy. Videoing at these events is permitted on the understanding that any such recordings must be for sole use and must not be used for sale or reward. If you have any objection to your child being included please telephone me at the school as soon as possible.



Videos or photographs of any school activity should not be posted on social network sites i.e Facebook, Youtube, Myspace etc. This is a breach of data protection and South Lanarkshire Council protocols are clear. [www.ceop.gov.uk/parents](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/parents). Please refer to our Social Media/Social Networking guidelines for further information. Guidelines will be issued later this week.

## School Christmas Post



Our internal Christmas Post Service will commence on 6 December. Post boxes will be situated in the foyer and library. If the children wish to use this service stamps can be purchased at 30 pence for eight.

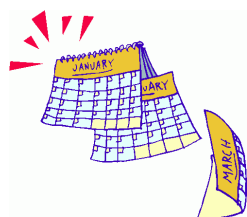
This year's proceeds will be forwarded to Cash for Kids/Let us Shine along with our collections at the family Nativity and Christmas service.

## Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 3 December the P.T.A. hosted a very successful Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all parents, staff, children and stallholders for all their preparations prior to the event and their hard work on the day of the Fayre. Thank you to everyone who managed to attend the event and who contributed to its success. We will be able to advise you in the new year how much money was made once all monies have been counted. Congratulations to Susie Lindsay (stallholder) who won the top raffle prize of £100.



## Class Calendars



Class calendars will continue to be on sale over the next 2 weeks. If you would like to purchase a calendar at a cost of £1 please send money to the school office. Christmas gifts made by pupils which were not sold at the Christmas Fayre will continue to be on sale this week in classes and then on general sale in the foyer area from next Monday.

## Staffing

We are pleased to welcome our new janitor, Mr. Cardwell who has joined us from Halfmerke Primary School. We hope that our school community will work together to support Mr. Cardwell settle into his new post.



Goodbye

Mrs. Carole Burt will be leaving Blacklaw on Wednesday 21 December. Mrs. Burt has been a dedicated member of staff for the past ten years. We wish her well.

## Parking

At this busy time of year with Christmas activities taking place in the school and possible inclement weather, it would be appreciated if you could show courtesy to our local residents by refraining from parking in the residents' bays in Glen Arroch when visiting the school. May I remind parent/carers who are dropping off or picking up children to only park in the designated parking bays. Please note that the parking bays at the front entrance of the school building are often used for buses/coaches to pick up or drop off pupils on school excursions. We would ask that parents refrain from parking in these bays when bus/coach access is required. This is to ensure that pupils embark/disembark safely. The parking bays at the front entrance of the school are for **staff only** please refrain from parking/waiting in these spaces.



## Engine Idling

South Lanarkshire Council winters' engine idling campaign is now underway. This involves officers from South Lanarkshire undertaking patrols at schools during pick up periods. Exhaust emissions from vehicles contain a range of pollutants that can affect air quality. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution. South Lanarkshire officers will be patrolling school car parks. They will warn any driver found to be engine idling and if the driver fails to turn off their engine they may be fined £20.



We would appreciate your support in ensuring that engines are not left 'idling' in the vicinity of our school car park. Our Pupil Council and JRSO will also be involved in encouraging drivers to switch off their engines.

Remember:

**Don't make us cough, turn your engine off!**

## Pantomime



The PTA again, are able to support our Christmas pantomime which will be 'Peter Pan' in Motherwell Theatre on Monday 19 December. The children should wear their school uniform. **All money should be paid prior to the outing. Last payment will be Friday 9 December.** A letter outlining the arrangements for this event will be issued shortly.

## A Special Invitation!

### Blacklaw Primary School Christmas Nativity

We would like to invite our local pensioners, grandparents and friends of the school to a performance of our Christmas Nativity this year on Tuesday 13 December at 9.30 a.m. Room 6 will serve you a wee cup of tea and a mince pie to finish the event. If you would like to come along it would be very helpful if you could telephone the school to help with the catering arrangements (232064). Our end of term Nativity performance for parents will take place on Thursday 15 December at 9.30 a.m. after which the Pupil Council will offer refreshments. Our end of year service will take place in the school gym hall on Wednesday 21 December at 9.30 a.m. All family and friends are welcome! We hope to welcome many of our senior citizens to our school at this happy time. There will be a collection taken at these events which will be shared between Radio Clyde's Cash for Kids and our own link school in Ghana.



## Infant Registration W/C 16 January 2017

Already we are preparing to register our new starts for August, 2017. If you know of anyone who will be five years of age between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017 and live in our catchment area, please let them know that we will be registering at Blacklaw on Monday 16 Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 2017 between 9.30 - 11.30a.m. They should remember to bring the child's **full birth certificate** and **two pieces of proof of residency** usually utility bills. The child should be registered by **their parent** and they would be most welcome to see round the school.



## Emergency Closure Planning

In the event of **extreme weather conditions, Fire or heating failure** the school may need to close. Please be sure to read our **Emergency Closure Leaflet** in preparation for such an event.

Discuss alternative pick up arrangements with your child. In deep snow we may have to deny vehicular access to our turning circle. This causes disruption in Glen Arroch. Please be considerate to the residents living in the school vicinity.

**Please ensure you update our office regularly with your child's local emergency contact numbers.**



## After School Clubs

Scripture Union will hold their Christmas Party on Monday 12 December which will be their final meeting until Monday 16 January 2017. **All other after school clubs will finish week ending 9 December.**

**All clubs will recommence w/c Monday 16 January 2017.**

**If your child walks home after a club please encourage them to walk with a friend if possible and to be vigilant at all times due to the dark nights and possible icy paths.**

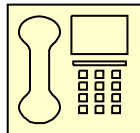


## Parent Council Contacts

Please find below contact details for the Parent Council:

**Chairperson** Colin McLean Telephone: 07481 792472

Email: [Colin.mclean09@gmail.com](mailto:Colin.mclean09@gmail.com)



**Vice Chair:** Hannah Shanks

Email: [hannahmshanks@hotmail.com](mailto:hannahmshanks@hotmail.com)

## PTA Contacts

Michelle Young - Chair - 07734 922373

Elaine Byrne - Secretary - 07882 326244

Colin McLean - Treasurer - 07481 792472

There is a new contact email address for the **Parent Council**:

**[blacklawprimarypc@gmail.com](mailto:blacklawprimarypc@gmail.com)** Parents can email this in confidence.

Other members of the parent council are: Kathleen Claudin (Secretary), Heather Sturgeon, Karen Keeney, Liz Roy, Elaine Foster, Nicola Ryan, David Ryan, Mrs Black and Mrs Speirs. David Ryan????

## Alert

There have been instances of head lice in the school recently - please remember to check your child's hair regularly and keep up the Bug Busting. Bug Busting is a head louse detection and eradication method that is recommended to deal with the problem instead of relying on pesticides. Bug Busting works by combining the specially designed comb with your usual shampoo and conditioner.



If you require more information on this subject please visit [www.nits.net](http://www.nits.net).

## Volunteers - Golden Time

Thank you to our parent helpers/volunteers who have given up their time each Friday this term to support our Let's Cook Activities. We are now looking for parent helpers/volunteers who can assist with activities from February - April.

Parents/carers can include aunts, uncles, grandparents etc. Age is no limit! All volunteers will need to undergo a Disclosure Check to work as a helper within the school. Forms are available at the school office. Types of activity can include gardening, traditional games, learning to play the guitar, arts and crafts, football, ICT, pottery, basically any activity that you are able to offer. If you are available to help with an activity or you wish to lead your own activity then please contact me at the school. Golden Time activities take place on Friday afternoons from 2.00 - 2.45 p.m.



## Christmas Holiday Date

Please note the school will close for the Christmas break on **Thursday 22 December at 2.30 p.m.**

## Book Week

Book Week Scotland is a week-long celebration of books and reading that takes place every November.



During Book Week, people of all ages and walks of life come together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces to share and enjoy books and reading. This year Blacklaw joined in these celebrations, during an extremely busy week where book swaps, shared reading, storytelling sessions, library visits and book screenings were just some of the events organised. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support our activities during book week. Of all the events, the children particularly enjoyed our

lunchtime book hunt - a big well done to Katie Primary 4 Room 6 who was our overall winner! A further well done to our 'design a bookmark' competition winners, who will now have their winning designs put into production and issued to all the children in the school. Congratulations Nieve Primary 2 Room 2, Millie Primary 5 Room 7 and Josh Primary 7 Room 10! If you'd like to get involved in next year's book week events, or have suggestions for how we can mark this event next year, we'd love to hear from you!

## Absence/Sickness

When your child is absent from school please ensure you send a letter in to the class teacher on your child's return with an explanation for their absence. Thank you.



## Trips/Outings



Our children regularly go out of school on a trip or outing. The children are issued with a letter for any events out of school which require your signature of authorisation. Often children do not return their signed permission slip. Class teachers will endeavour to remind pupils either orally or by note in homework/communication diaries to return their permission slips. If no signed authorisation is received by the day of the trip then we will attempt to phone the main contact only on our records. If the main contact cannot be reached your child will not be allowed to go on the outing and will remain in school. We hope that you will support the school and ensure that written consent is

returned on time.

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# Responsible Citizens

## **P7 Skiing**

For a few weeks we have been going skiing and we have had so much fun! We have been learning to go down a hill straight and how to stop with the skis. Jack, Kiera and Rachel have moved on to the largest slope and have started using the 'button toe'. Everyone else has been working on the smaller slope to improve their skills. Most people in Primary 7 attend the skiing. Everyone loves it and hopes to do it in the future!

By Abbey and Kiera Primary 7 Room 10



## **Netball Festivals**

When we went to the netball festival two weeks ago we had so much fun! Our team played four games, some played three and some played two. We played against multiple schools, for example Maxwellton, St. Leonards and Our Lady of Lourdes. We got a mini bus there and back and sang songs while we travelled. We all loved the netball festival and hope to go to more soon!

By Cara and Ruth Primary 7 Room 10



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# Confident Individuals

## Holidays 2017/2018

Please find attached holiday dates for 2017/2018 and keep handy for future reference.



### Diary

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 1 December   | Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.  |
| Friday 2 December     | P7 to Bellahouston Ski Centre - 3.00 p.m.   |
| Saturday 3 December   | PTA Christmas Fayre 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.   |
| Monday 5 December     | Lunchtime Choir<br>P6 Bubblegum & Fluff - 1.00 p.m.<br>Scripture Union - 3.00 p.m.<br>Athletics - 3.00 p.m.   |
| Tuesday 6 December    | P4 to Dollan Aqua Centre<br>Knitting Club - 3.00 p.m.<br>Homework Club - 3.00 p.m.  |
| Wednesday 7 December  | YMi Music<br>Badminton Club - 3.00 p.m.   |
| Thursday 8 December   | Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.  |
| Friday 9 December     | <b>Panto balance £2.50 to be complete by today</b><br>P6/P7 Christmas Party   |
| Monday 12 December    | Nativity - Dress Rehearsal - 9.30 a.m.<br>Lunchtime Choir<br>Choir to St. Leonards Library - 1.15 p.m.<br>P 3/P4 Christmas Party<br>Scripture Union Christmas Party - 3.00 p.m. |
| Tuesday 13 December   | P4 to Dollan Aqua Centre<br>Blacklaw Nativity for local community & grandparents - 9.30 a.m.<br>PTA Meeting - 7.00 p.m.   |
| Wednesday 14 December | YMi Music<br>P4/P5 Christmas Party  |
| Thursday 15 December  | Blacklaw Nativity for parents - 9.30 a.m.<br>P1 Christmas Party   |
| Friday 16 December    | Awards Assembly - 9.30 a.m.   |
| Monday 19 December    | Whole school to Motherwell Theatre - Peter Pan  |
| Tuesday 20 December   | P4 to Dollan Aqua Centre  |
| Wednesday 21 December | Christmas Service in school - 9.30 a.m.   |
| Thursday 22 December  | School closes 2.30 p.m.   |

All staff and pupils at Blacklaw would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

**Noreen Black**  
Head Teacher



# Blacklaw Primary School

## Holiday Dates 2017 - 2018

|   |               |                                     |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Teachers return   | In service    | Tuesday 15 August 2017              |
|   | In service    | Wednesday 16 August 2017            |
| Pupils return   |               | Thursday 17 August 2017 9.00 am     |
| Local Holiday   | School closes | Thursday 21 September 2017 3.00 pm  |
|   | Re-open       | Tuesday 26 September 2017 9.00 am   |
| October Break   | School closes | Friday 13 October 2017 3.00 pm      |
|   | Re-open       | Monday 23 October 2017 9.00 am      |
|    | In Service    | Monday 20 November 2017             |
| Christmas/New Year  | School closes | Friday 22 December 2017 2.30 pm     |
|   | Re-open       | Monday 8 January 2018 9.00 am       |
| Local Holiday   | School closes | Friday 9 February 2018 3.00 pm      |
|   | In Service    | Wednesday 14 February 2018          |
|   | Re-open       | Thursday 15 February 2018 9.00 a.m. |
| Easter/Spring Holiday   | School closes | Thursday 29 March 2018 2.30 pm      |
|  | Re-open       | Monday 16 April 2018 9.00 am        |
| Local Holiday   | School closes | Friday 4 May 2018 3.00 pm           |
|  | Re-open       | Tuesday 8 May 2018 9.00 am          |
|   | In Service    | Tuesday 8 May 2018                  |
|   | School closes | Thursday 24 May 2018 3.00 pm        |
|   | Re-open       | Tuesday 29 May 2018 9.00 am         |
| Summer Break  | School closes | Thursday 28 June 2018 1.00 pm       |